

REMARKS

The Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above amendment and reconsideration in view of the amendment and the remarks herein, as well as, the remarks previously made in the amendment submitted on August 1, 2003.

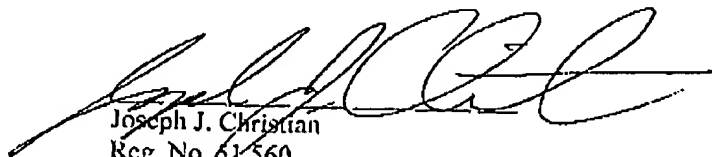
The status of the claims in the above-identified application is as follows. Claims 1-34 were originally presented. Claims 1-19 and 21 were previously canceled. Claims 23-34 were withdrawn from consideration. Claims 40 and 52 are canceled herein. Claims 35-66 were previously added. Claims 67-73 are herein added. Thus, claims 20, 22, 35-39, 41-51 and 53-73 remain pending.

Applicant respectfully contends that there is no extension of time requirement as to the amendment made herein. The Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (copy enclosed), although dated October 17, 2003, was received in this office on November 17, 2003, as evidenced by the date stamped copy of the front page of the Notice. Upon our receipt of the Notice on November 17th, this office promptly made numerous efforts to contact both Examiner Cobb and Supervisor including telephone calls to same on November 17, 18, and 20. We received no replies to the messages that we left telephonically. We trust that the mailing of the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment was, perhaps, inadvertently misdated, and thus no extension of time fees are required.

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner believes that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Dated: 11/21/03


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09/871,078

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09/071,078	05/31/2001	Thomas D. Taggart	STEU-3250	9319
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<p>EXAMINER TAWFIK, SAMEH</p>				
<p>ART UNIT 3721</p>				
<p>PAPER NUMBER</p>				

DATE MAILED: 10/17/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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SCHMEISER, OLSEN
& WATTS

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